

City of Covington

Newton County

Atlanta MSA

2003 Population Estimate 13,152; +11.2% change from 2000 Census.

Tree City USA for 14 years.

Tree Preservation Board with 7 members; quarterly meetings required by ordinance.

Chapter 16.136 TREE PRESERVATION

First adopted 1991. Last revised 2003.

Addresses public and private property.

Includes landscape requirements.

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Chapter 16.136

TREE PRESERVATION

Sections:

- 16.136.010 Title.
- 16.136.020 Purpose.
- 16.136.030 Definitions.
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16.136.010 Title.

The provisions of this chapter shall be known as the city's "Tree Preservation Ordinance." (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.020 Purpose.

Tree Canopy Cover. The purpose of these provisions is to regulate the conservation, protection, maintenance, and establishment of trees within the city in order to maintain at least sixty (60) percent tree canopy cover across the city and increase the city's tree canopy cover wherever and whenever possible, to preserve tree and community forest health,

and to contribute to community health, safety, and welfare.

Trees as Infrastructure. Trees and the community forest are a component of the community infrastructure, and as such provide benefits and require management, including maintenance, removal, and replacement to maximize their useful service life. As with other infrastructure, trees shall be maintained in a safe and healthy condition to provide maximum benefits with minimum risk.

Tree Benefits. Trees, tree canopy, and tree roots conserve soil and maintain soil health, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, shade streams, and improve water quality.

Trees and tree canopy shade the soil, pavement, buildings, other property, and infrastructure, and cool the environment through the evaporation of water during leaf transpiration. Trees moderate temperatures, decrease the urban heat island effect, reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds released from parked vehicles, and extend the useful life of property and infrastructure.

Trees and tree canopy filter particulate matter from the air and absorb carbon dioxide and other harmful compounds, reduce air pollution, and contribute to human survival and health.

Trees and tree canopy provide recreational places and opportunities. The presence of trees has psychological and social benefits, including reduction of domestic violence, improvement in learning among youth, reduction in healing times, hospital stays, and medication needs, and calming of traffic.

Trees and tree canopy provide economic benefits because they increase property values and bring residents and visitors to a community, resulting in increased commerce and trade.

Trees are effective buffers and provide visual screening, noise reduction, and reduce light glare. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.030 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter unless otherwise specifically stated.

“Appraised value” means the dollar value assigned to a tree and calculated using the methods outlined in the latest edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal.

“Best management practices” means recommended practices established by the American National Standards Institute and published by the International Society of Arboriculture for the management of trees and community forests that are based upon professional experience and the results of ongoing research.

“Buffer” means a natural, undeveloped portion, or planted portion, of a lot or parcel of land set aside for open space and visual screening for the purpose of separating different use districts, or to separate uses on one property from uses on another property of the same use district.

“Buildable area” means the portion of a parcel that is not located within any required yard, landscaped area, open area, recreation area, buffer, or screen, i.e., that portion of a parcel wherein a building may be located in compliance with applicable zoning regulations.

“Building activities” means activities on existing development sites including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation, or moving of buildings or structures.

“Building official” means the person appointed by the city who has the responsibility for the issuance of building permits and the administration and enforcement of the Georgia State Minimum Construction Codes; or, the head of the city building and zoning department.

Where the term “building official” is used, it shall also indicate any person designated by the building official to act on his/her behalf in carrying out the responsibilities of the department and the provisions of this ordinance.

“Caliper” means the diameter of the trunk of a replacement tree (new nursery stock) measured six inches above the ground line for trees of four-inch caliper or smaller, and measured twelve (12) inches above the ground line for trees larger than four inches in caliper.

“Canopy tree” means a generally long-lived, over-story tree that grows tall and to a large size, usually

with a height of forty (40) feet or greater at maturity. Trees listed as large or medium in the community tree species list described in Section 16.136.100 are considered canopy trees.

“Certified arborist” means a person who voluntarily has been certified as an arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture and maintains that certification in good standing.

“Community forest management practices” means practices conducted to maintain and improve the health, function, and safety of the trees and forests within a community.

“Critical root zone” means the area of soil and roots beneath a tree’s canopy, within the dripline, or within a circular area of soil and roots with a radius out from the tree trunk a distance of one and one-half feet for every one-inch of DBH, whichever is greater.

“Crown” means the upper portion of the tree that includes the scaffold limbs, branches, and leaves.

“CTLA” means the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, a national council that periodically defines the accepted professional methods for determining the appraised value of trees and cost of cure for tree damage and destruction.

“Cut” means a portion of land surface or area from which earth has been removed or will be removed by excavation; the depth below original ground surface to excavated surface. Also known as “excavation.”

“DBH” means diameter at breast height, which is the diameter of a tree trunk measured in inches at a height of four and one-half feet above the ground line for individual trunks, and at the narrowest point below the fork for trees forked below four and one-half feet.

“Deciduous tree” means a tree that loses its leaves annually in the fall, or late in the winter (tardily deciduous), and produces new leaves in the spring.

“Decline” means a state of health characterized by loss of living tissue and wood volume, such as in branch dieback and shedding, slowing of the annual growth rate, and reduction in overall tree health and vigor.

“Dripline” means a vertical line extending downward from the outermost tips of a tree’s branches, creating a more or less circular projection on the

ground; the outline of a tree's canopy as it is projected on the ground.

"Encroachment activity" means any activity that is conducted on or encroaches on adjacent public property or the public street right-of-way, including, but not limited to, land disturbing activities, building activities, installation of irrigation systems, sod installation, pesticide application, tree planting, tree pruning, and tree removal, and they may impact the soil, vegetation (including trees), sidewalk, curb, landscape strip, road, utilities, or other infrastructure as determined by the building official.

"Erosion" means the process by which land surface is worn away by the action of wind, water, ice, or gravity.

"Evergreen tree" means a tree that retains its leaves throughout the year; evergreen trees may lose their older leaves on a regular or irregular basis.

Excavation. See Cut.

"Fill" means a portion of land surface to which soil or other solid material has been added; the depth above the original ground.

"Forest management practices" means practices for managing the age, composition, health, and wood production of a forested tract of land, including, but not limited to: the removal of trees for commercial use and sold as pulpwood, shortwood, chip and saw, sawtimber, plylogs, wood chips, or other hardwood or softwood products; site preparation for tree planting including tilling, root raking, tree planting; herbicide application for herbaceous or woody plant control; fertilization; and pest control.

"Grading" means altering ground surfaces to specified elevations, dimensions, and/or slopes; includes stripping, cutting, filling, stockpiling, and shaping or any combination thereof.

"Grubbing" means the removal of woody vegetation from a site using heavy, mechanized equipment.

"Impervious surface" means any surface through which water does not penetrate.

"ISA" means the International Society of Arboriculture, an international organization that developed and administers the Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Worker, and Certified Utility Worker programs.

"Land disturbing activity" means any activity that disturbs the soil, removes woody vegetation, or results in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediments into state waters or onto lands within the state, including, but not limited to, excavating, filling, grading, grubbing, root or stump removal, trenching, or transporting of land, but not including agricultural practices as described in Section 15.36.210(E).

"Landscaped area" means ground covered with a combination of turf, shrubs, herbaceous plants, trees, and/or mulch.

"Large tree" means a tree expected to grow to a minimum height of forty (40) feet at maturity under urban conditions.

"Medium tree" means a tree expected to grow to a maximum height of twenty-five (25) to forty (40) feet at maturity under urban conditions.

"Net area or acreage" means the project area or acreage not including required buffers, open space, or recreation areas.

"Overstory tree" means a tree whose crown, at maturity, is dominant or at the least co-dominant in the canopy of the forest. A canopy tree.

"Parking area" means that portion of a development required and used exclusively for the parking in unenclosed spaces of vehicles of employees, residents, or customers.

"Permit" means the authorization necessary to conduct land disturbing, timber harvesting, or building activities as described in this chapter.

"Permit holder" means the person authorized by the issuance of a permit to conduct land disturbing, timber harvesting, or building activities as described in this chapter.

"Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, utility, cooperative, state agency, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state, any interstate body or any other legal entity.

"pH" means a measure of the concentration of hydrogen ions in substances such as water or soil. A measurement of 7.0 is neutral, below 7.0 is acidic, and above 7.0 is alkaline. For each 0.1 change in

number, there is a one hundred (100) times change in the pH.

"Private tree" means a tree located on privately owned property; not a public tree.

"Project area" means the entire proposed development area, including but not limited to, all proposed yards, buffers, open space, recreation areas, tree conservation areas, tree protection zones, landscaped areas, roads, buildings, and parking areas, but including only the current phase.

"Public tree" means a tree located on city property including, but not limited to, city street rights-of-way, buildings, parks, and cemeteries.

"Registered forester" means a person who is licensed to practice professional forestry in Georgia.

"Registered landscape architect" means a person who is licensed to practice landscape architecture in Georgia.

"Root zone" means the area beneath the soil containing the majority of the roots of an individual tree or group of trees. Tree roots typically grow out from the tree two to three times the width of the crown and are concentrated in the top twenty-four (24) inches of soil.

"Roots" means the woody and non-woody (fibrous) structures of a tree that are located within the soil and function to take up water and nutrients from the soil.

"Shrub" means a woody, perennial, usually multi-stemmed plant that generally achieves a height at maturity of less than fifteen (15) feet.

"Small tree" means a tree expected to grow to a maximum height of twenty-five (25) feet at maturity under urban conditions.

"Soil" means a composite of mineral, biological, and chemical substances that can be categorized by its structure, texture, moisture, and pH.

"Street right-of-way" means that land to which the public has the paramount right for use as a thoroughfare; the width of the right-of-way is that distance, measured perpendicular to the centerline of such thoroughfare, between the front lot lines of the abutting properties on each side of the thoroughfare.

"Tilling" means the mechanized turning and aeration of soil, usually to a depth of less than twelve

(12) inches, for the purpose of preparing a site for planting of turf or herbaceous plants.

"Timber harvesting" means the cutting and removal of standing, living trees from the forest for the milling and manufacture of wood products; also known as "logging" or "timbering."

Topping. "Tree topping" means the removal of tree limbs, branches, or stems by cutting between branch attachments to achieve a desired tree height or shape.

"Tree" means a self-supporting, generally single-stemmed, woody perennial plant that is capable of growing to a trunk diameter of at least three inches and a height of at least fifteen (15) feet. A multi-stemmed woody plant may be considered a tree if at least one stem meets the criteria above.

"Tree bank" means an account established by the city for the purpose of collecting and expending forfeited bonds and penalties as provided for in this chapter.

"Tree conservation" means the retention and protection of trees on a site, either individually or in a group.

"Tree establishment" means the process of establishing a new tree on a site including, but not limited to, site selection, species selection, selection of planting stock, site preparation, planting, mulching, watering, pruning, pest management, and inspection. The number of years required to successfully establish a tree during which time intensive and routine maintenance is required shall, for the purposes of this chapter, be three years from the date of planting.

"Tree preservation" means ongoing maintenance and protection of a tree, whether newly planted, juvenile, mature, or declining, to preserve its health.

"Tree protection zone" means the area around a tree and within the critical root zone extending at least two feet below ground and encompassing the entire above ground portion of the tree. The area around a tree that requires ongoing protection.

"Trunk" means the woody stem of a tree that supports the crown. Multiple or forked trunks may be present.

"Understory tree" means a tree whose crown, at maturity, is subordinate to and beneath the forest

canopy. Trees listed as small or very small in the community tree species list as described in Section 16.136.100 are considered understory trees.

“Very small tree” means a tree expected to grow to a maximum height of fifteen (15) feet at maturity under urban conditions. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.040 Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to any land disturbing activity on real property within the corporate limits of the city including, but not limited to, all activities that require a sediment and erosion control permit or a land disturbance permit; and, to any activity that requires a building permit including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation, redevelopment, or moving of buildings or structures.

Exemptions. Activities on residential lots, or the construction of, individual, single-family detached dwellings by the resident homeowner, shall be exempt, unless otherwise stated in this chapter.

Activities performed by city staff during the course of their daily work and activities at the land application facility shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter. However, best management practices for tree care shall be incorporated into daily work activities.

Forest management practices, including timber harvesting, which are being conducted as part of an ongoing forest management program and are based upon a long-term forest management plan, shall be exempt. Forest management practices, including timber harvesting, that are incidental to land development, shall not be exempt. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.050 Tree canopy cover measurements.

To maintain current information on the state of the city’s tree canopy cover and to track changes in tree canopy over time, measurements of the overall percent of tree canopy cover and other types of cover within the city and of tree canopy cover on all developments required to conserve or plant trees under the provisions of this chapter shall be made by the city within one year of the receipt of updated aerial photography.

Cover types to be measured across the city shall include, but are not limited to, impervious surfaces (buildings, other structures, and pavement), turf, other vegetation, exposed soil, and open water. Tree canopy cover only shall be measured on all developments required to conserve or plant trees under the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.060 Tree preservation board.

Purpose. A tree preservation board (hereinafter referred to as the “board”) is established to assist the city building and zoning department in interpreting and enforcing the provisions of this chapter and to advise the mayor and city council on matters pertaining to the preservation of trees and conservation of tree canopy cover within the city.

Members. The tree preservation board shall consist of seven members. Members shall be residents of the city, though one member may be a nonresident with professional expertise in arboriculture or horticulture. They shall be appointed by the mayor and city council and shall serve without compensation.

Chairman and Vice-chairman. A chairman and vice-chairman shall be elected by the board from among the board members. Nominations for these positions shall be submitted to the board annually at least ten (10) working days and not more than thirty (30) working days prior to the first meeting of each calendar year. Elections shall be held at the first meeting of each calendar year, at which time the term of office shall begin.

Secretary. The zoning administrator shall act as secretary of the board. The secretary shall be a non-voting member.

Records. The secretary shall maintain records of the board’s proceedings and assist the building official with dissemination of information, public awareness, and such other administrative duties as may be assigned by the board.

Term of Office. Each member of the tree preservation board shall serve for three years, with exception of the members of the first board, which shall have three members serving for only one year, three members serving for two years, and one member serving

for three years. The term of office of the chairman and vice-chairman shall be one year.

Vacancy. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of any member, his or her successor shall be appointed by the mayor and council to serve the unexpired portion of the term. The chairman of the tree preservation board shall recommend to the mayor and council that a replacement be appointed for any member who fails to perform his/her duties.

Quorum. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. In varying the application of any provisions of this code, affirmative votes of a majority of the members present and voting shall be required.

Meetings. The tree preservation board shall meet not less frequently than quarterly and shall establish rules and regulations for its operations consistent with the provision of this chapter.

Administrative Guidelines. The tree preservation board shall have the power to adopt and promulgate such further administrative guidelines, standards, and regulations as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The maintenance of the city's community tree species list shall be the responsibility of the board. Current copies of the community tree species list and other such administrative guidelines, standards, or regulations shall be maintained at the city building and zoning department and shall be made available to the public for inspection and copying during normal business hours. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.070 Soil and tree conservation.

Permit Required. No person shall conduct any land disturbing activity or building activity within the city without first obtaining a soil and tree conservation permit from the city building and zoning department to perform such activity. A soil and tree conservation permit shall be required for new developments prior to the issuance of an erosion and sedimentation control permit and/or land disturbing permit and/or approval of a preliminary plat or preliminary plan, and for existing developments prior to the issuance of a building permit.

The property owner or authorized agent is the only person that can obtain a soil and tree conservation permit. No soil and tree conservation permit shall be issued unless all provisions of this chapter have been satisfied.

To obtain a soil and tree conservation permit, a permit application and a soil and tree conservation plan as specified in this section must be submitted to the city building and zoning department in accordance with this chapter.

If the activity is to occur in phases, then a separate soil and tree conservation permit shall be required for each phase.

The soil and tree conservation permit may be suspended, revoked or modified by the building official, as to all or any portion of the land affected by the soil and tree conservation plan, upon finding that the soil and tree conservation permit holder is not in compliance with the approved soil and tree conservation plan or is in violation of this chapter.

The soil and tree conservation permit shall expire after one year of inactivity on the site.

Soil Conservation. The soil on site shall be conserved and protected to the greatest extent possible. To protect tree roots, soil within the tree protection zone shall not be compacted, cultivated, altered, or disturbed in any manner.

Where trees are to be planted, topsoil shall remain on site or be moved, stored, and then replaced prior to planting.

Application Process. Applications for a soil and tree conservation permit shall include three copies of the soil and tree conservation plan. Upon receipt of a completed application and soil and tree conservation plan, the city building and zoning department shall have thirty (30) days to review the application and soil and tree conservation plan and either approve, approve with conditions, or deny the soil and tree conservation permit with comments.

Fee. Upon the approval of an application for a soil and tree conservation permit, the applicant shall pay an administrative fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) before a permit will be issued.

Soil and Tree Conservation Plan. The soil and tree conservation plan shall be completed and signed by a

registered forester, a certified arborist, or a registered landscape architect.

A soil and tree conservation plan shall not be required for any construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, or restoration of existing structures or site when the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, or restoration is less than fifty (50) percent of the assessed value of the structure or site.

The soil and tree conservation plan shall include, as a minimum, the following information:

- A. Project name;
- B. Project description;
- C. Project location and tax parcel number(s);
- D. Name, address, and telephone number of property owner;
- E. Name, address, and telephone number of developer;
- F. Name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for preparing the soil and tree conservation plan, and the seal, signature, and statement of professional qualifications of such person;
- G. Size of project area in acres or square feet;
- H. Size of the buildable area in acres or square feet;
- I. Total landscaped area required in percent and square foot area;
- J. Total canopy cover required in percent and square foot area;
- K. Summary table of tree canopy coverage for conserved trees by individual tree or tree groups, and for planted trees by species, mature size and canopy category;
- L. Delineation of required buffers, landscaped areas, open space, and recreation areas;
- M. Location and size of proposed structures or additions to existing structures, paved areas, and all other site improvements;
- N. Construction entrance and exit;
- O. Delineation of tree conservation areas;
- P. Species, DBH, and location of trees to be conserved; include both trunk location and extent of tree protection zone;
- Q. For existing developments, location, species, and size of any tree previously conserved or planted to achieve required tree canopy cover, including

trunk location, DBH, and location and dimensions of tree protection zones;

R. Location of all existing and proposed overhead and underground utilities;

S. Type and location of tree protection fencing and other tree protection structures required;

T. Type and location of tree protection area signs;

U. Species, caliper, and location of trees to be planted;

V. Tree protection statement for all conserved trees: "Tree protection measures will be maintained at all times. Additional tree protection measures will be installed if deemed necessary by on-site inspection;"

W. Tree maintenance statement for all planted trees: "Trees will be maintained throughout their life using best management practices; maintenance within the first three years after planting will include watering, mulching, and pruning;"

X. Species, DBH, and location of trees growing on the adjacent public street right-of-way or public property;

Y. Project activity schedule;

Tree Protection Bond. The applicant shall be required to provide an escrow deposit or post a bond or irrevocable letter of credit with a surety or issuer acceptable to the city in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each one thousand six hundred (1,600) square feet of tree canopy cover conserved on a site after approval of an application and soil and tree conservation plan, and prior to the issuance of a soil and tree conservation permit. For all developments except new residential subdivisions, the bond shall be released after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy and the successful and complete implementation of the provisions of this chapter related to tree conservation, as determined by the building official.

For new residential subdivisions the bond shall be released to the developer after final plat approval and at least fifty (50) percent of the lots have been sold and all provisions of this chapter have been met for each phase of development. Separate tree protection bonds shall be required from the general contractor

providing improvements on each lot sold according to the provisions of this chapter.

Tree Establishment Bond. Prior to the issuance of final plat approval or a certificate of occupancy, the soil and tree conservation permit holder shall be required to provide an escrow deposit or post a bond or irrevocable letter of credit with a surety or issuer acceptable to the city in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per tree planted or required to be planted to meet canopy cover requirements. For all developments except new residential subdivisions, the bond shall be held by the city for a minimum of thirty-six (36) months. If the applicant does not comply with any provision of this chapter or with the conditions of the soil and tree conservation permit after issuance, the bond may be forfeited. Trees that do not survive in good condition as determined by the building official shall be replaced prior to the release of the bond. If the trees are not replaced within forty-eight (48) months from the original date of planting, the bond shall be forfeited and the entire sum deposited in the city's tree bank account.

For new residential subdivisions, the bond shall be released to the developer after final plat approval and at least fifty (50) percent of the lots have been sold and all provisions of this chapter have been met. Separate tree establishment bonds shall be required from the general contractor providing improvements on any lot sold according to the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.080 Timber harvesting.

Permit Required. A timber harvesting permit shall be required for tree removal and timber harvesting operations that are part of the development process. A timber harvesting permit shall not be required for timber harvesting in any zone if included as part of an ongoing forest management program.

The property owner is the only party that can obtain a timber harvesting permit. No timber harvesting permit shall be issued unless all provisions of this chapter have been satisfied.

The timber harvesting permit shall expire after one year of inactivity on the site.

After the issuance of a timber harvesting permit, the owner will be eligible for additional development related permits including, but not limited to, sediment and erosion control permits, land disturbance permits, site and tree conservation permits, and right-of-way encroachment permits.

When timber harvesting occurs with or without a timber harvesting permit and the tree canopy cover remaining is less than that required in Section 16.136.090, or is wholly or partly of unacceptable quality according to the building official, then no additional development related permits for such harvesting site shall be issued for a minimum of three years including, but not limited to, sediment and erosion control permits, land disturbance permits, site and tree conservation permits, and right-of-way encroachment permits.

Application Process. Application for a timber harvesting permit shall be submitted to the city building and zoning department. A separate application is required for each location. Upon receipt of a completed application for a timber harvesting permit the city building and zoning department shall have five days to review the application and issue a permit.

Fee. No fee shall be required for a timber harvesting permit. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.090 Right-of-way encroachment.

Permit Required. A right-of-way encroachment permit is required for any land disturbing activity or building activity conducted by any person that encroaches on city property, other than mowing turf, and for any activity that may impact the soil, vegetation (including trees), sidewalk, curb, landscape strip, road, utilities, or other infrastructure as determined by the building official. City property includes, but is not limited to, parks, city buildings, and street rights-of-way.

Permit Expiration. The right-of-way encroachment permit shall expire on the date of completion listed on the application, or after one year of inactivity on the site, whichever comes first.

Application Process. Application for a right-of-way encroachment permit shall be submitted by the person proposing to engage in the encroachment ac-

tivity, to the city building and zoning department along with a right-of-way encroachment plan. A separate application and right-of-way encroachment plan is required for each location. Upon receipt of a completed application and right-of-way encroachment plan the city building and zoning department shall have ten (10) working days to review the application and either approve, approve with conditions, or deny the right-of-way encroachment permit with comments. If a right-of-way encroachment permit is denied the applicant may resubmit the application with the required changes to restart the application and permit process.

If no notice of action on the right-of-way encroachment permit taken by the city building and zoning department is received by the applicant within ten (10) working days from the date of filing of the application, the application will be deemed to have been approved as of the eleventh day following the date of such filing.

Fee. Upon the approval of an application for a right-of-way encroachment permit, the applicant shall pay an administrative fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) before a right-of-way encroachment permit will be issued.

Fee Waived. The fee shall be waived for any person performing activities requested by the city. However, an application, right-of-way encroachment plan, and right-of-way encroachment permit shall be required.

Tree Protection. All trees located on city property shall be protected from root, trunk, or crown damage during the proposed encroachment according to the provisions of this chapter.

Tree Protection Bond. The applicant may be required by the building official to furnish a tree protection bond prior to the issuance of a right-of-way encroachment permit in an amount not to exceed the appraised value of the trees growing on the permit site.

Right-of-Way Encroachment Plan. Applications for a right-of-way encroachment permit shall include three copies of the right-of-way encroachment plan. The right-of-way encroachment plan shall include, as a minimum, the following information:

- Z. Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant;
- AA. Name, address, and telephone number of the person preparing the plan;
- BB. Date the plan was prepared;
- CC. Location of the encroachment (address);
- DD. Location of existing trees, structures, and utilities;
- EE. Location and description of tree protection measures;
- FF. Location of proposed structures or the location of the encroachment;
- GG. Date encroachment activity is to commence;
- HH. Date encroachment activity is to end;
- II. How pedestrian traffic will be rerouted during the encroachment activity;
- JJ. How vehicular traffic will be rerouted during the encroachment activity. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.100 Tree canopy cover.

Minimum Tree Canopy Cover Required. For new developments within each zoning district, a minimum amount of healthy tree canopy cover, measured in square feet of projection of the canopy onto the ground, shall be conserved and/or established within the net area of each parcel. The required amount of tree canopy cover shall be maintained throughout the life of the development except as exempted in Section 16.136.040. Tree canopy cover requirements are listed by zoning district in Table A of this section. Trees in poor or declining condition, as determined by the building official, shall not be credited toward the required tree canopy coverage.

Table A. Minimum Tree Canopy Coverage and Landscaped Area Required by Zoning District

Zoning District	Tree Canopy Coverage	Landscaped Area
C-C	45%	20%
CBD	30%	15%
H-C	45%	20%

ER-HR	40%	20%
R-1	50%	30%
R-2	50%	30%
R-3	50%	30%
R-4	50%	30%
R-LC	50%	25%
R-P	50%	25%
S-P	60%	30%
PUD	60%	30%
TNPUD	60%	30%
CVD	60%	30%
MHP	40%	20%
Condominiums	30%	15%
M-1	30%	15%
M-2	30%	15%

Minimum Amount of Conserved Trees. For all new developments, a minimum of one-half of the tree canopy cover required shall originate from the conservation of existing trees, if there are sufficient existing trees in good condition on the site as determined by the building official. If there are not sufficient trees in good condition and the one-half requirement cannot be met, then the deficit shall be made up through tree planting.

Distribution. Tree canopy cover shall be distributed as evenly as practicable throughout the development.

Parking Areas. Within parking areas at least one canopy tree shall be planted or conserved within the interior and along the perimeter of the parking lot for each seven parking spaces. In no case shall a parking space be greater than one hundred sixty-five (165) feet from a tree. Trees planted or conserved to meet this requirement shall be counted toward the overall tree canopy cover requirement.

Buffers, Open Areas, and Recreation Areas. Where buffers, open areas, and recreation areas are required, the required canopy cover percent shall apply to the net area.

Size Composition. In no case shall the number of medium or large maturing canopy trees conserved and/or planted account for less than seventy (70) percent of the total canopy cover required.

Canopy Cover Calculations. The canopy of each conserved tree shall be calculated by measuring the diameter of the crown at its widest point and multiplying that by the diameter of the crown perpendicular to the first measurement. The resulting square foot area is the contribution of the tree to total tree canopy cover area required. In lieu of measuring actual tree canopy cover, each tree conserved may be assigned the canopy cover areas listed below:

Large Trees - one thousand six hundred (1,600) square feet;

Medium Trees - nine hundred (900) square feet;

Small Trees - four hundred (400) square feet;

Very Small Trees - one hundred fifty (150) square feet.

When calculating the number of trees required, any fraction below .5 shall be rounded down to the next lower whole number, and any fraction equal to or greater than .5 shall be rounded up to the next highest whole number.

For conserved trees, multiple, adjacent trees with overlapping crowns shall be credited with the amount of canopy cover they collectively project onto the ground. Trees with trunks growing directly on top of a property boundary line shall be credited with only that portion of the canopy projection that falls onto the permitted property, or one-half of the assigned canopy cover area as provided for in this section. No credit shall be given for trees whose trunks are growing solely on adjacent property that overhang the permitted property. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.110 Community tree species list.

The city shall maintain a list of tree species approved for conservation and planting within the city as well as those not recommended. The list shall be known as the city's community tree species list, hereinafter referred to as the "tree species list." The tree species list includes the canopy cover category of each species, the mature size category of each species, notations on which species may be planted beneath utility lines, and other species characteristics.

The list is maintained by the tree preservation board and may change without notice to incorporate results of research and experience with individual

species, and is available from the city building and engineering department.

Canopy Cover Category. Each species included in the tree species list shall be assigned a canopy cover category of "canopy" or "understory." Canopy trees shall also be known as overstory trees.

Mature Size Category. Each species included in the tree species list shall be assigned a mature size category of "large," "medium," "small," or "very small." The mature size limits of each category are as follows:

Large Tree - average mature height of forty (40) feet or greater;

Medium Tree - average mature height of twenty-five (25) to forty (40) feet;

Small Tree - average mature height of fifteen (15) to twenty-five (25) feet. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.120 Permeable surfaces.

Minimum Permeable Surface Area Required. For each tree conserved or planted a minimum amount of permeable surface area is required around the tree to provide for tree and root health, soil aeration, percolation of water, and exchange of gases.

Permeable surfaces include, but are not limited to, mulch, turf, crushed rock, and permeable paving materials, as well as areas covered by shrubs and herbaceous plants.

For conserved trees, the required permeable surface area shall coincide with the critical root zone. The building official may allow permeable pavement or materials in up to thirty (30) percent of the critical root zone. In no case shall less than seventy (70) percent of the critical root zone consist of soil covered with mulch. The area of soil covered with mulch shall be a circle that has the tree trunk as its center. Where natural, undisturbed forest conditions and a natural leaf litter layer exist, no mulch shall be required.

For planted trees, the amount of permeable surface area required shall be based upon the mature tree size category as follows:

Large Trees - six hundred forty (640) square feet;

Medium Trees - three hundred sixty (360) square feet;

Small Trees - one hundred sixty (160) square feet;
Very Small Trees - sixty (60) square feet.

For planted trees, a minimum of fifty (50) percent of the permeable surface area required shall consist of soil covered with mulch and shall be that area immediately surrounding the tree trunk. Exposed soil shall not be allowed but shall be covered with a three to four inch layer of organic mulch.

The same permeable surface area cannot be counted for more than one tree except as approved by the building official. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.130 Landscaped area.

Minimum Landscaped Area Required. For each site, a minimum amount of landscaped area within the buildable area is required within each zoning district. Minimum landscaped areas are listed in percent of buildable area by zoning district in Table A of Section 16.136.090 of this chapter. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.140 Tree protection.

Conserved Trees. All conserved trees shall be actively protected during the development process and passively protected throughout the life of the development. The entire tree, including the crown, trunk, and roots, and the critical root zone, shall be protected.

Minimum Tree Protection Measures. Active tree protection shall consist of, at a minimum, establishing a tree protection zone around each tree or grouping of trees by the installation of fencing at the outer edges of the critical root zone.

Tree protection fencing and tree protection area signs shall be installed after the issuance of a soil and tree conservation permit or right-of-way encroachment permit and prior to any land disturbance activity or building activity. Tree protection fencing shall be at least four feet high and shall be installed with either sturdy wooden or metal fence posts around the tree protection zone. Tree protection fencing shall remain in good condition throughout the development and construction processes, and shall only be removed after final plat approval or a certificate of occupancy has been issued. The critical root zone

within the tree protection area shall be mulched with a minimum of three inches and not more than eight inches of organic mulch such as pine straw, wood chips, tree leaves, or compost.

The building official may require the installation of additional tree protection measures to insure survivability of conserved trees.

Prohibited Activities. Within the tree protection areas, the following activities shall be prohibited:

- KK. Vehicle traffic or parking;
- LL. Materials or equipment storage;
- MM. Soil disturbance;
- NN. Soil excavation;
- OO. Removal of topsoil;
- PP. Trenching;
- QQ. Soil fill;
- RR. Change in soil pH;
- SS. Change in soil drainage;
- TT. Equipment washouts or disposal (including concrete);

UU. Fires;

VV. Chemical or trash disposal;

WW. Other activities harmful to the trees as determined by the building official.

Planted Trees. All planted trees shall be actively protected during the development process and passively protected throughout the life of the development. The entire tree, including the crown, trunk, and roots, and the critical root zone, shall be protected. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.150 Tree establishment.

Planting Required The planting of canopy trees shall be required to achieve the tree canopy cover amounts listed in Table A of Section 16.136.090 of this chapter where existing, conserved tree canopy cover is not adequate or cannot be conserved.

Species Composition. Canopy trees planted shall be any combination of species listed in the tree species list, except that in no case shall any one genus (for example, "maple" or "oak") comprise more than thirty (30) percent of the trees planted on a site and in no case shall any one species (for example "red maple" or "white oak") comprise more than ten (10) percent of the number of trees planted on a site. Un-

derstory trees may also be planted but shall account for no more than ten (10) percent of the total canopy cover requirements.

Minimum Caliper. All trees planted and credited toward tree canopy cover requirements shall be at least two inches in caliper.

Tree Condition. All trees planted and credited toward tree canopy cover requirements shall be planted according to current arboricultural standards and shall be in good health and structural condition as determined by the building official.

Canopy Cover Area Assigned Each tree planted shall be assigned the canopy cover areas listed below:

Large Trees - one thousand six hundred (1,600) square feet;

Medium Trees - nine hundred (900) square feet;

Small Trees - four hundred (400) square feet;

Very Small Trees - one hundred fifty (150) square feet.

For planted trees, multiple, adjacent trees with overlapping minimum permeable surface areas shall be credited with one-half of the assigned canopy cover area.

Growing Space. All trees planted shall be provided with adequate space to grow unobstructed to maturity, avoid sight obstructions, and maintain pedestrian, vehicular, and building clearances. Minimum growing space requirements for trees by mature size are listed in Table B of this section. The building official may waive the minimum space requirements if the planting design will not cause conflicts with infrastructure, enhances tree function, and provides the required tree canopy cover.

Table B. Minimum Growing Space Requirements by Mature Size

Large Trees	
Distance to other large trees	40 feet
Distance to street intersections	35 feet
Distance to traffic signs	20 feet
Distance to light poles	20 feet
Distance to overhead power lines	20 feet
Distance to driveways	15 feet

Distance to mailboxes	15 feet
Distance to fire hydrants, electrical transmission boxes, water meters, or other similar infrastructure	15 feet
Distance to curb or sidewalk	4 feet
Width of planting site	8 feet

Medium Trees

Distance to street intersections	35 feet
Distance to other medium trees	30 feet
Distance to traffic signs	20 feet
Distance to light poles	20 feet
Distance to overhead power lines	20 feet
Distance to driveways	15 feet
Distance to mailboxes	15 feet
Distance to fire hydrants, electrical transmission boxes, water meters, or other such infrastructure	15 feet
Distance to curb or sidewalk	4 feet
Width of planting site	6 feet

Small Trees

Distance to street intersections	35 feet
Distance to traffic signs	20 feet
Distance to other small trees	15 feet
Distance to light poles	15 feet
Distance to driveways	15 feet
Distance to mailboxes	15 feet
Distance to fire hydrants, electrical transmission boxes, water meters, or other such infrastructure	15 feet
Distance to overhead power lines	0 feet
Distance to curb or sidewalk	2 feet
Width of planting site	4 feet

Very Small Trees

Distance to street intersections	35 feet
Distance to traffic signs	20 feet
Distance to light poles	15 feet
Distance to driveways	15 feet
Distance to mailboxes	15 feet
Distance to fire hydrants, electrical transmission boxes, water meters, or other such infrastructure	15 feet
Distance to other very small trees	10 feet

Distance to overhead power lines	0 feet
Distance to curb or sidewalk	2 feet
Width of planting site	3 feet

Tree Maintenance Required Trees established as part of the canopy cover requirement shall be maintained according to the standards described in Section 16.136.180.

Seasonal Planting. Final plat approval or a certificate of occupancy may be issued prior to the establishment of trees planned to meet the tree canopy cover requirements, if the building official determines that the season is inappropriate for planting. In such cases the trees shall be planted by the last day of February following the date of issuance of the certificate of occupancy or final plat approval. If they have not been planted by the last day of February following the issuance of the certificate of occupancy or final plat approval, the soil and tree conservation permit holder shall be considered to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.160 Public trees.

Authority. The city shall have the right to plant, maintain, prune, and remove trees, shrubs, and plants within the rights-of-way of all city streets, roads, and highways, in parks, around city facilities, and on other city grounds, as may be necessary or desirable to insure public safety, to preserve tree health, and to maintain and increase tree canopy cover.

Protection. All trees growing on city property shall be protected from damage to the crown, trunk, and roots.

It is unlawful for any person to engage in any activity on private property that directly or indirectly adversely affects the health, safety, or condition of a tree on city property. Furthermore, active tree protection measures, as described in this chapter, shall be undertaken by the person engaging in any such activity to protect each affected tree's roots, trunk, crown, and critical root zone, from damage. If a person damages, destroys, or fails to protect a city tree, the city may require the person responsible for the damage to pay a fine equal to the appraised value of the tree, the

cost of repairing the damage, and/or the cost of restoring the site to its original condition or as near as possible to its original condition.

Appraised Tree Value. The value of a city tree shall be equal to the appraised value.

Pruning and Removal. The city may prune, remove or cause to be pruned or removed, any city tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its location or condition is or may be injurious to sewers, water lines, electric power lines, gas lines, or other public improvements, or is infested with any injurious fungus, insect, or other pest. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.170 Private trees.

Pruning and Removal. It shall be the responsibility of private property tree owners to prune, remove or cause to be pruned or removed, any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its location or condition is or may be injurious to sewers, water lines, electric power lines, gas lines, or other public improvements, or is infested with any injurious disease, insect, or other pest.

Notification. The city shall notify the owner in writing delivered by certified or registered mail of the need to prune or remove any such tree within ten (10) working days of establishing the need. The tree owner shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice to complete the required action.

Action by the City. If no action is taken by the tree owner, the city may prune, remove or cause to be pruned or removed, the tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe or injurious condition as stated above, and require reimbursement from the property owner for the reasonable cost of such pruning or removal.

Abatement as Nuisance. As an additional remedy, cumulative of the provisions of this section and of any other provisions of this chapter, upon the failure or refusal of any person or persons responsible therefore to maintain trees as hereinabove provided, after the notice provided for in Title 8, Health and Safety, Chapter 8.12 Nuisances Generally, Section 8.12.030 Abatement of Nuisances procedure of this code has been given, the city may treat such violation as a nuisance. In such event, the city clerk shall file the com-

plaint with the police department as provided by Section 8.12.030(A), and the provisions of the chapter shall be fully and completely applicable. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.180 Certifications.

All persons engaged as contractors in tree related work for the city, including, but not limited to, tree management, planting, maintenance (pruning), evaluation, and inspection, shall either be, or be under the supervision of, an ISA Certified Arborist. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.190 Standards.

All planting, protection, and maintenance activities performed on conserved or established trees to be included as part of the tree canopy cover requirements, and all maintenance activities performed on city trees, shall be done according to best management practices, the standards described below, and the administrative guidelines developed by the tree preservation board.

Nursery Stock. All nursery stock shall meet standards defined in the most current edition of American Standard for Nursery Stock published by the National Planting. All tree planting shall be done in accordance with standards defined in the most current edition of the "Tree and Shrub Transplanting Manual."

Pruning. All tree pruning shall be done in accordance with the most current edition of the American National Standards Institute A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations - Pruning.

Tree Topping. Tree topping is not allowed. Crown reduction pruning shall be used instead of topping to reduce the height of a tree when necessary. Topped trees shall not be counted toward tree canopy cover requirements.

Fertilization. All tree fertilization shall be performed in accordance with the most current edition of the American National Standards Institute's A300 (Part 2) Standards for Tree Care Operations - Fertilization.

Tree Support Systems: Cabling, Bracing, and Guying. All tree support system installation and maintenance shall be performed in accordance with the

tion permit, timber harvesting permit, right-of-way encroachment permit, or building permit for the site where such violation occurs.

If it is deemed that a person engaged in land disturbing or building activities, as defined herein, has failed to comply with his approved plan, with permit conditions, or with the provisions of this chapter, a written notice to comply shall be served upon that person personally or by certified or registered mail. The notice shall set forth the measures necessary to achieve compliance and shall state the time within which such measures must be completed. If the person engaged in the activity fails to comply in a timely manner with the terms of such notice, such person shall be deemed to be in violation of this chapter. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.230 Penalties.

Failure to Obtain Permit. If any person commences any land disturbing activity or building activity requiring a site and tree conservation permit or a right-of-way encroachment permit without first obtaining said permit, the person shall be deemed to be in violation of the provisions of this chapter.

Violations. The owner of any property wherein a violation exists, and any builder, contractor, or agent who may have assisted in the commission of any such violation, may be chargeable with separate offenses for each such violation.

Stop Work Orders. For the first violation of any provision of this chapter, the building official or the city shall issue a written warning to the violator. The violator shall have forty-eight (48) hours to correct the violation.

If the violation is not corrected with forty-eight (48) hours, the building official or the city shall issue a stop work order requiring that land disturbing or building activities cease until necessary corrective action or mitigation has occurred; provided, however, that if the violation presents an imminent threat to a conserved or planted tree the building official or the city shall issue an immediate stop work order in lieu of a warning. For second and subsequent violations, the building official or the city shall issue an immediate stop work order.

All stop work orders shall be effective immediately upon issuance and shall remain in effect until the necessary corrective action or mitigation has occurred.

Monetary Penalties. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter, any soil and tree conservation permit or right-of-way encroachment permit condition, or who negligently or intentionally fails or refuses to comply with any final order which the building official issues as provided in this chapter shall be liable for a penalty of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per day for each violation of the provisions of this chapter. Each day that such failure or refusal continues shall constitute a separate violation.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter other than as hereinabove provided shall, upon conviction, be punished as provided in Section 1.12.010 of this code. Each day during which such violation occurs or continues shall constitute and be punishable as a separate offense.

No certificate of occupancy or final plat approval shall be issued while a stop-work order is in effect or until an assessed fine has been paid.

Responsibility. The building official is responsible for determining whether a violation has occurred. Violations may include, but are not limited to: deviation from the approved plan; failure to properly install tree protection structures; failure to maintain tree protection structures in effective condition; evidence of harmful activities occurring within the tree protection zone; improper planting; failure to conserve or establish the required tree canopy cover; failure to deliver a tree protection or tree establishment bond; unauthorized delay in tree planting; damage to a conserved or established tree's crown, trunk, roots, or critical root zone; and damage to a city tree's crown, trunk, roots, or critical root zone. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.240 Appeals.

Any person aggrieved or adversely affected by a decision of the building official or the tree preservation board pertaining to the application of the provisions of this chapter may, within thirty (30) days of

most current edition of the American National Standards Institute's A300 (Part 3) Standards for Tree Care Operations - Cabling and Bracing.

Lightning Protection Systems. All lightning protection system installation and maintenance shall be performed in accordance with the most current edition of the American National Standards Institute's A300 (Part 4) Standards for Tree Care Operations - Lightning Protection.

Safety. All tree care operations shall be performed in accordance with the most current edition of the American National Standards Institute's Z133.1 Standards for Tree Care Operations - Safe Work Practices. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.200 Site inspections.

Authority. The building official has the authority to perform site inspections and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Site Inspections. Prior to the issuance of a soil and tree conservation permit or right-of-way encroachment permit, a visit shall be made to the proposed site by the building official and the applicant for the purpose of discussing the provisions of this chapter.

After a soil and tree conservation permit or right-of-way encroachment permit is issued and tree protection measures have been installed, and prior to any land disturbance, another site inspection shall be made by the building official.

Another site inspection shall occur prior to the issuance of final plat approval or a certificate of occupancy. All provisions of this chapter shall be met before final plat approval or a certificate of occupancy can be issued.

Other site inspections may take place without notice at any time prior to or after the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or final plat approval to insure continuing compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

Access. No person shall refuse entry or access to any authorized representative or agent of the building official who requests entry for the purposes of inspection and who presents appropriate credentials, nor shall any person obstruct, hamper, or interfere

with any such representative while in the process of carrying out his official duties.

Release of Bond. Prior to the release of a tree establishment bond and within thirty-six (36) months of issuance of final plat approval or a certificate of occupancy, a site inspection will be made to determine ongoing compliance with the provisions of this chapter. If non-compliance exists, the bond shall be held until compliance occurs or for a maximum of forty-eight (48) months. If compliance does not occur within forty-eight (48) months from the date of issuance of the certificate of occupancy or final plat approval, the bond shall be forfeited to the city and deposited in the tree bank. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.210 Tree bank.

When a documented hardship exists that results in a person's inability to achieve the required tree canopy cover, the building official may require a fee to be paid to the city for deposit in the city's tree bank in lieu of the conservation or establishment of trees. Funds in the tree bank shall be used for planting or maintaining trees on city property. The fee shall be calculated by first subtracting the number of square feet of tree canopy achievable from the number of square feet of tree canopy required, and then multiplying the result by one dollar (\$1.00). For example, if ten thousand (10,000) square feet of tree canopy is required, and only eight thousand (8,000) is achievable, then the difference in the two, two thousand (2,000) feet, is multiplied by one dollar (\$1.00), equaling two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).

Tree protection bonds and tree establishment bonds forfeited due to failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter shall also be deposited in the tree bank and used for planting or maintaining city trees. (Ord. dated 9/16/03 (part))

16.136.220 Enforcement.

The building official shall enforce the provisions of this ordinance. The tree preservation board shall assist the building official in the administration of this chapter. The building official shall have authority, upon violation of any provision of this chapter, to issue a stop work order on any soil and tree conserva-

City of Covington - Community Tree Species List Arranged Alphabetically by Common Name

For further information visit the City of Covington Building Safety and Zoning Office at 2116 Stalling Street or write to P.O. Box 1527, Covington, GA, 30015. You may also contact us by phone at (770)385-2178.

Species Common Name	Latin Name	Size	Crown Shape	Maximum Height (ft)	Typical Spread (ft)	Growth Rate	Leaf Texture	Leaf Type	Recommendation	Placement
Alder, Hazel	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	S	Spreading	10-20	10-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Ash, Green	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	L	Rounded	60-100	40-50	F	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Ash, White	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	L	Rounded	60-100	40-50	F	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	L	Pyramidal	50-100	20-50	F	Fine	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Basswood, American	<i>Tilia americana</i>	M	Irregular	20-40	15-30	M	Coarse	Deciduous	Recommended	OPEN
Beech, American	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	L	Rounded	80-100	50-70	S	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	OPEN
Birch, Paper	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	L	Spreading	60-70	20-40	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Birch, River	<i>Betula nigra</i>	L	Irregular	50-90	40-60	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Birch, Sweet	<i>Betula lenta</i>	L	Spreading	50-80	20-40	S	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Birch, Yellow	<i>Betula allegheniensis</i>	L	Spreading	70-100	20-40	S	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	L	Pyramidal	50-100	20-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	L	Rounded	50-75	40-50	F	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Buckeye, Bottlebrush	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	S	Spreading	10-15	10-15	S	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Buckeye, Red	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	S	Rounded	20-25	10-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Buckeye, Yellow	<i>Aesculus flava</i>	L	Oval	70-90	20-40	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Carolina Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	M	Rounded	30-40	10-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	M	Irregular	30-60	20-25	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Catalpa, Southern	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	L	Rounded	40-70	30-50	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Cedar, Atlantic White	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	L	Pyramidal	50-80	10-30	S	Fine	Evergreen	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Cedar, Deodar	<i>Cedrus deodora</i>	L	Pyramidal	40-60	30-50	S	Fine	Evergreen	Acceptable	OPEN
Chaste Tree (Vitex)	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	S	Spreading	15-20	10-15	M	Fine	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	L	Pyramidal	50-90	15-30	F	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Cherry, Carolina Laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	M	Oval	20-40	15-20	M	Medium	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Cherry, Okame	<i>Prunus campanulata x incisa</i>	S	Rounded	20-25	20-25	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Cherry, Weeping	<i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	S	Weeping	15-20	15-20	S	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL

City of Covington - Community Tree Species List Arranged Alphabetically by Common Name

For further information visit the City of Covington Building Safety and Zoning Office at 2116 Stalling Street or write to P.O. Box 1527, Covington, GA, 30015. You may also contact us by phone at (770)385-2178.

Species Common Name	Latin Name	Size ¹	Crown Shape	Maximum Height (ft)	Typical Spread (ft)	Growth Rate ²	Leaf Texture	Leaf Type	Recommendation	Placement ³
Cherry, Yoshino	<i>Prune x yedoensis</i>	S	Spreading	25-35	25-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Chestnut, American	<i>Castanea dentata</i>	L	Rounded	60-80	30-60	M	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Chestnut, Chinese	<i>Castanea mollissima</i>	L	Rounded	40-60	40-60	S	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	M	Rounded	30-40	25-35	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Chinese Tallow	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	S	Irregular	30-40	20-30	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Common Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	M	Rounded	20-30	20-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Coltonwood, Eastern	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	L	Pyramidal	50-100	20-30	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Crabapple, Japanese	<i>Malus floribunda</i>	S	Spreading	15-25	15-25	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Crabapple, Southern	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>	S	Oval	20-25	10-15	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Crapemyrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	S	Spreading	15-20	10-15	F	Fine	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Cryptomeria, Japanese	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	L	Pyramidal	50-60	20-30	M	Fine	Evergreen	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Cypress, Leyland	<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	M	Pyramidal	60-70	15-20	F	Fine	Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Dahoon	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	S	Oval	10-25	10-15	S	Fine	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Dogwood, Flowering	<i>Cornus florida</i>	M	Horizontal	15-30	15-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Dogwood, Kousa	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	S	Rounded	15-25	15-25	S	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Downy Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	M	Irregular	15-40	10-15	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Elm, American	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	L	Upright	50-100	30-60	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Elm, Lacebark (Chinese)	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	L	Upright	40-50	40-50	M	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Elm, Siberian	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	L	Upright	50-70	30-50	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Elm, Winged	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	L	Upright	70-80	30-50	M	Fine	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Franklinia	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>	S	Spreading	10-20	5-15	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	S	Oval	10-30	5-15	M	Coarse	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Fringe Tree, Chinese	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	S	Rounded	15-25	15-25	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Fruit Tree, Flowering	<i>Prunus or Malus spp.</i>	M	Spreading	15-30	15-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL

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Ginkgo (Female)	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	L	Irregular	50-70	30-40	S	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Ginkgo (Male)	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	L	Irregular	50-70	30-40	S	Coarse	Deciduous	Preferred	OPEN
Golden Raintree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	M	Rounded	20-30	10-15	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Golden Raintree, Bougainvillea	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	M	Spreading	20-30	15-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	L	Spreading	60-90	25-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	OPEN
Hackberry, Georgia	<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>	L	Spreading	60-90	25-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	OPEN
Hawthorne	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>	S	Rounded	10-20	5-15	S	Fine	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Hemlock, Eastern	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	L	Pyramidal	60-90	25-35	S	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Hickory Variety	<i>Carya spp.</i>	L	Oval	60-80	40-60	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Hickory, Bitternut	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	L	Upright	50-100	25-30	S	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Holly, American	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	M	Pyramidal	20-70	15-20	M	Medium	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Holly, Ornamental Varieties	<i>Ilex spp.</i>	M	Pyramidal	15-30	15-30	S	Medium	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Holly, Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	S	Pyramidal	10-25	8-10	S	Fine	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Recommended	UTL
Honeylocust, Thornless	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	L	Irregular	60-80	30-50	F	Fine	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Hophornbeam, Eastern	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	M	Irregular	25-40	15-25	S	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Hornbeam, American	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	M	Irregular	20-35	15-25	S	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Hornbeam, European	<i>Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'</i>	M	Upright	30-40	20-30	S	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Hornbeam, Japanese	<i>Carpinus japonica</i>	S	Spreading	15-20	15-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Katsurairtree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonica</i>	M	Rounded	40-60	20-30	F	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Locust, Black	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	L	Irregular	40-90	20-40	F	Fine	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
London Plane Tree	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	L	Irregular	60-100	20-40	M	Coarse	Deciduous	Acceptable	OPEN
Magnolia, Cucumbertree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	L	Oval	60-80	20-40	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Magnolia, Japanese	<i>Magnolia soulangeana</i>	M	Spreading	20-30	10-25	M	Coarse	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Magnolia, Southern	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	L	Pyramidal	80-100	30-50	S	Coarse	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Recommended	OPEN

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Magnolia, Star	Magnolia stellata	S	Oval	15-20	10-15	S	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Maple, Amur	Acer ginnala	S	Spreading	15-20	15-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Maple, Chalk	Acer leucoderme	M	Oval	25-30	25-30	S	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Maple, Florida	Acer barbatum	L	Rounded	40-60	25-60	S	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Maple, Hedge	Acer campestre	M	Rounded	25-35	25-35	S	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Maple, Japanese	Acer palmatum	S	Rounded	15-20	10-15	S	Fine	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Maple, Norway	Acer platanoides	M	Rounded	20-40	15-40	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Maple, Red	Acer rubrum	L	Rounded	40-90	20-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Maple, Silver	Acer saccharinum	L	Rounded	60-100	50-100	F	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Maple, Striped	Acer pennsylvanicum	M	Rounded	30-40	20-40	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Maple, Sugar	Acer saccharum	L	Rounded	60-80	30-50	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Maple, Trident	Acer buergerianum	M	Rounded	20-30	20-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Mimosa	Albizia julibrissin	M	Irregular	30-35	30-35	F	Fine	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Mulberry, Red	Morus rubra	L	Rounded	40-70	20-50	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Oak, Cherrybark	Quercus pagoda	L	Rounded	60-100	30-50	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Chestnut	Quercus prinus	L	Rounded	50-80	30-50	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Chinese Evergreen	Quercus myrsinifolia	M	Oval	20-30	20-30	M	Medium	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Georgia	Quercus georgiana	M	Rounded	30-40	30-40	S	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Laurel	Quercus laurifolia	L	Rounded	60-80	40-60	M	Medium	Tardily Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Live	Quercus virginiana	L	Spreading	60-80	50-60	M	Medium	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Oak, Northern Red	Quercus rubra	L	Rounded	60-100	30-60	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Nuttall	Quercus nuttallii	L	Rounded	50-60	50-60	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Oglethorpe	Quercus oglethorpensis	M	Rounded	40-50	30-50	S	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Oak, Pin	Quercus palustris	L	Pyramidal	40-100	20-50	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL

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Oak, Sawtooth	Quercus acutissima	M	Pyramidal	50-60	30-60	F	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Scarlet	Quercus coccinea	L	Rounded	50-80	30-50	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Shumard	Quercus shumardii	L	Rounded	60-100	30-70	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Southern Red	Quercus falcata	L	Rounded	60-100	30-70	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Swamp Chestnut	Quercus michauxii	L	Oval	70-90	30-40	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Turkey	Quercus laevis	M	Irregular	30-40	10-20	S	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Oak, Water	Quercus nigra	L	Rounded	50-100	30-60	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Oak, White	Quercus alba	L	Rounded	60-100	30-60	S	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Oak, Willow	Quercus phellos	L	Pyramidal	40-100	30-60	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Osage Orange	Maclura pomifera	M	Spherical	30-40	30-40	F	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Pagodatree, Japanese	Sophora japonica	L	Rounded	50-75	50-75	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Pear, Bradford	Pyrus calleryana var. Bradford	M	Oval	20-50	10-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Pear, Callery Varieties	Pyrus calleryana var.	M	Oval	20-50	10-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Pecan	Carya illinoensis	L	Oval	60-100	30-40	S	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	OPEN
Persimmon, Common	Diospyros virginiana	L	Oval	35-60	20-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Photinia, Red Tip	Photinia x fraseri	S	Oval	10-15	10-15	M	Medium	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Pine, Eastern White	Pinus strobus	L	Pyramidal	60-100	30-50	S	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Pine, Loblolly	Pinus taeda	L	Pyramidal	80-100	20-40	M	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Pine, Longleaf	Pinus palustris	L	Pyramidal	60-100	20-40	M	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Pine, Scotch	Pinus sylvestris	L	Pyramidal	60-80	20-30	S	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Pine, Slash	Pinus elliotii	L	Pyramidal	80-100	30-50	M	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Pine, Spruce	Pinus glabra	L	Pyramidal	60-100	20-30	F	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Pine, Virginia	Pinus virginiana	M	Pyramidal	15-70	10-30	M	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL

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Pistache, Chinese	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	M	Spreading	30-35	25-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	ROW/NO UTL
Plum, Chickasaw	<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	S	Rounded	10-20	10-15	M	Fine	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Plum, Purpleleaf	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	S	Spreading	15-30	15-25	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Poplar, Lombardy	<i>Populus nigra</i> var. <i>italica</i>	L	Columnar	70-90	20-30	F	Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Poplar, Yellow	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	L	Cylindrical	80-150	30-60	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Recommended	OPEN
Possumhaw	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	S	Oval	10-20	10-20	M	Fine	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Redbud, Eastern	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	M	Spreading	25-50	15-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Redbud, Forest Pansy	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'	S	Rounded	15-20	15-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	UTL
Redbud, Oklahoma	<i>Cercis reniformis</i> 'Oklahoma'	S	Rounded	15-20	15-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	UTL
Redbud, Texas White	<i>Cercis reniformis</i> 'Texas White'	S	Rounded	15-20	15-20	M	Medium	Deciduous	Preferred	UTL
Redcedar, Eastern	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	L	Conical	40-60	10-20	M	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Redwood, Dawn	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	L	Pyramidal	70-100	25-30	F	Fine	Evergreen	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Royal Paulownia	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	L	Irregular	30-50	20-30	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Rusty Blackhaw	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	S	Rounded	10-25	10-15	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	M	Oval	30-50	20-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Silverbell, Carolina	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	M	Oval	30-40	20-25	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Smoketree, American	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	S	Rounded	15-20	15-20	S	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Smoketree, Common	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	S	Rounded	10-15	10-15	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	UTL
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	M	Spreading	30-50	20-30	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Spruce	<i>Picea</i> spp.	M	Pyramidal	30-50	10-25	S	Fine	Coniferous Evergreen	Unacceptable	NONE
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	L	Spreading	60-80	25-30	M	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	M	Rounded	30-60	20-40	M	Coarse	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	L	Pyramidal	60-100	40-70	F	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	OPEN
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	L	Oval	70-100	30-50	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL

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Tree of Heaven	Allanthurus altissima	M	Irregular	30-60	30-40	F	Coarse	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Tree Sparkleberry	Vaccinium arboreum	S	Irregular	10-20	5-10	S	Fine	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Waxmyrtle, Southern	Myrica cerifera	S	Spreading	10-30	10-30	M	Fine	Broad-Leaved Evergreen	Recommended	UTL
Willow, Black	Salix nigra	M	Irregular	80-100	30-50	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Willow, Weeping	Salix babylonica	M	Irregular	30-40	20-30	F	Fine/Medium	Deciduous	Unacceptable	NONE
Winterberry, Common	Ilex verticillata	S	Spreading	5-10	5-10	S	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	UTL
Witch Hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	M	Spreading	20-35	20-35	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL
Yellowwood, American	Cladrastis kentukea	M	Irregular	30-50	40-50	M	Medium	Deciduous	Acceptable	ROW/NO UTL
Zelkova, Japanese	Zelkova serrulata	L	Upright	50-80	50-80	M	Medium	Deciduous	Recommended	ROW/NO UTL

¹Size: L = Large (>50 feet tall at maturity); M = Medium (25 to 50 feet tall at maturity); S = Small (<25 feet tall at maturity).

²Growth Rate: S = Slow; M = Moderate; F = Fast

³Placement: UTL = can be planted under or near utility lines; ROW/NO UTL = can be planted as a street tree but NOT under or near utility lines; OPEN = should only be planted in an open area with a large amount of rooting and growing space and no utility lines nearby; NONE = not acceptable for planting in any location

